

Volunteer report by Lucía Moreno Gómez
European Solidarity Corps volunteer at Kinderladen Hütteldorf
From 01/10/2024 to 31/07/2025

Hallo! My name is Lucia Moreno, I'm 20 years old and I'm from Madrid, Spain. For the last few months, I had the opportunity to volunteer at Kinderladen Hütteldorf in the beautiful 14th district of Vienna.

I began my volunteering journey unsure of what to expect, but I was excited and open to learning and growing. Right from the start, the team at Kinderladen Hütteldorf welcomed me warmly, and I quickly felt like part of the community.

My tasks at the Kindergruppe included helping with daily routines, playing and interacting with the children, supporting outdoor activities, assisting during meals, cleaning up the kindergarten and kitchen after lunch, and, when needed, preparing breakfast in the mornings.

During these months, I learned not only how to work better with children, but I also gained confidence in speaking both German and English. I developed more patience, empathy, and a stronger sense of responsibility. Being in a multicultural environment helped me learn to adapt to different perspectives and ways of working.

Living abroad in Austria was an amazing cultural experience that allowed me to grow both personally and culturally. Vienna quickly became more than just the place where I was volunteering — it felt like a second home. I loved exploring the city's beautiful architecture, from the imperial buildings to the colorful and creative Hundertwasserhaus.

Another thing I appreciated was the high quality of life and the strong sense of safety — even walking home late at night felt secure. The rhythm of life in Vienna is calm yet vibrant, and I really valued the balance between work, leisure, and cultural events.

Living in Austria pushed me out of my comfort zone, especially when it came to the language, but that challenge made the experience even more rewarding. It opened my mind to new ways of thinking and helped me become more independent.

I highly recommend participating in an ESC volunteering project, as it encourages personal growth, helps you meet new people, and allows you to engage in something meaningful.

My advice to future volunteers is: don't be afraid to ask questions, and take every opportunity to get involved. Get to know other volunteers, connect with the local community, and don't forget to enjoy the little things.

